Cp 970.78
J76

Jones
Capture of Harper's
Ferry.

The Library
of the
University of North Carolina

This book was presented
by
Historical Dept. N.C.
Division. U.D.C.

Cp 970.78-J76

THE CAPTURE OF HARPER'S FERRY.

One of the most beautiful things I saw during the war was the capture of Harper's Ferry. We were somewhere on the Maryland side of the Potomac River. One evening about a half an hour by sun we received orders to prepare for an all night march. After spending what seemed to us, Stonewall Jackson's men, a long time in one place, we were glad to move on. We had no idea where we were going, but they were Stonewall Jackson's orders and we knew "Old Jack" was all right, so we set out and marched blindfolded as you might say, on, and on, and on, till we felt pretty sure it was close on to daybreak, when we were ordered to halt. After some arrangements by officers we were ordered to lie down. It was not long before we could see it was growing lighter in the East. There had been several days of cloudy, gloomy weather, but when the sun rose the clouds rolled away and everything fairly glittered. It will be remembered that Harper's Ferry is in a valley on the Potomac, surrounded by hills. We were then ordered to lie down. The Yankees who were stationed there looked up and saw they were emtirely surrounded by the Confederates. They had just received a large quanity of fresh supplies from the North and were eating drinking and having a big carousal. When they looked up and took in the situation you ought to have seen the white flags shoot up, so we captured twelve thousand five hundred prisioners without firing a gun. Stonewall, realizing, he could not get a sufficient force of his own men on the Virginia side to accomplish his object without being discovered, had arranged for General Longstreet to come to his support on the South side which he did. So between the two big generals they did a good nights work, but it was Stonewall Jackson's plan. Longstreet's command being not far off, his men did not have so far to

P13536

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2013

http://archive.org/details/captureofharpers00jone

march as we, Stonewall's men did.

We boys were turned loose on these good things and you may be sure we availed ourselves of them. One more time in our lives we ate as much sugar as we wanted. Owing to the lack of sufficient transportation, we were not able to take away all those supplies which would have been so valuable to our army, but we bore off a good quantity, and were so refreshed and elated that we scarcely knew ourselves. I have read and heard various estimates of the number of prisioners captured on that memorable occasion. Some say eight thousand, some nine thousand, and so on but I don't think any of them ever reached ten thousand but there were twelve thousand five hundred prisoners besides a considerable quantity of military stores.

Austin A. Jones Company G. 7th North Carolina Regiment.

The account of the capture of Harper's Ferry by Stonewall in all the histories I have examined is so different from that given by "The men who were there", that I wish to send for preservation this contribution from Mr. Austin A. Jones one of my neighbors whose word no one who knew him would doubt. He volunteered at the beginning of the war in what was known as the Cedar Fork Company of which Hiram Weatherspoon was Captain, and served faithfully until the Battle of Fredericksburg where he lost a leg. As soon as possible he was brought home where he recovered and lived till a few years ago. His Company was composed of men from our neighboring village of Morrisville and old Cedar Fork Church, Wake County and was known as Company G. 7th Regiment, North Carolina Troops. Edward Graham Haywood of Raleigh, Lieutenant Colonel.

Mrs. A. J. Ellis
Raleigh, N. C.

August 10th, 1922.

UNIVERSITY OF N.C. AT CHAPEL HILL
00032769647

FOR USE ONLY IN

THE NORTH CAROLINA COLLECTION

28957